



Reception Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 – 2026

Squirrels Class

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Squirrels Class! We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer break. We are delighted to welcome both our new children and families to Reception and are looking forward to an exciting year of learning, growth and discovery together.

Starting school is a very special milestone, and we are committed to making every child feel happy, safe and valued as they settle into their new environment.

The Reception Team

- Miss Rani
- Miss Barks
- Mrs T

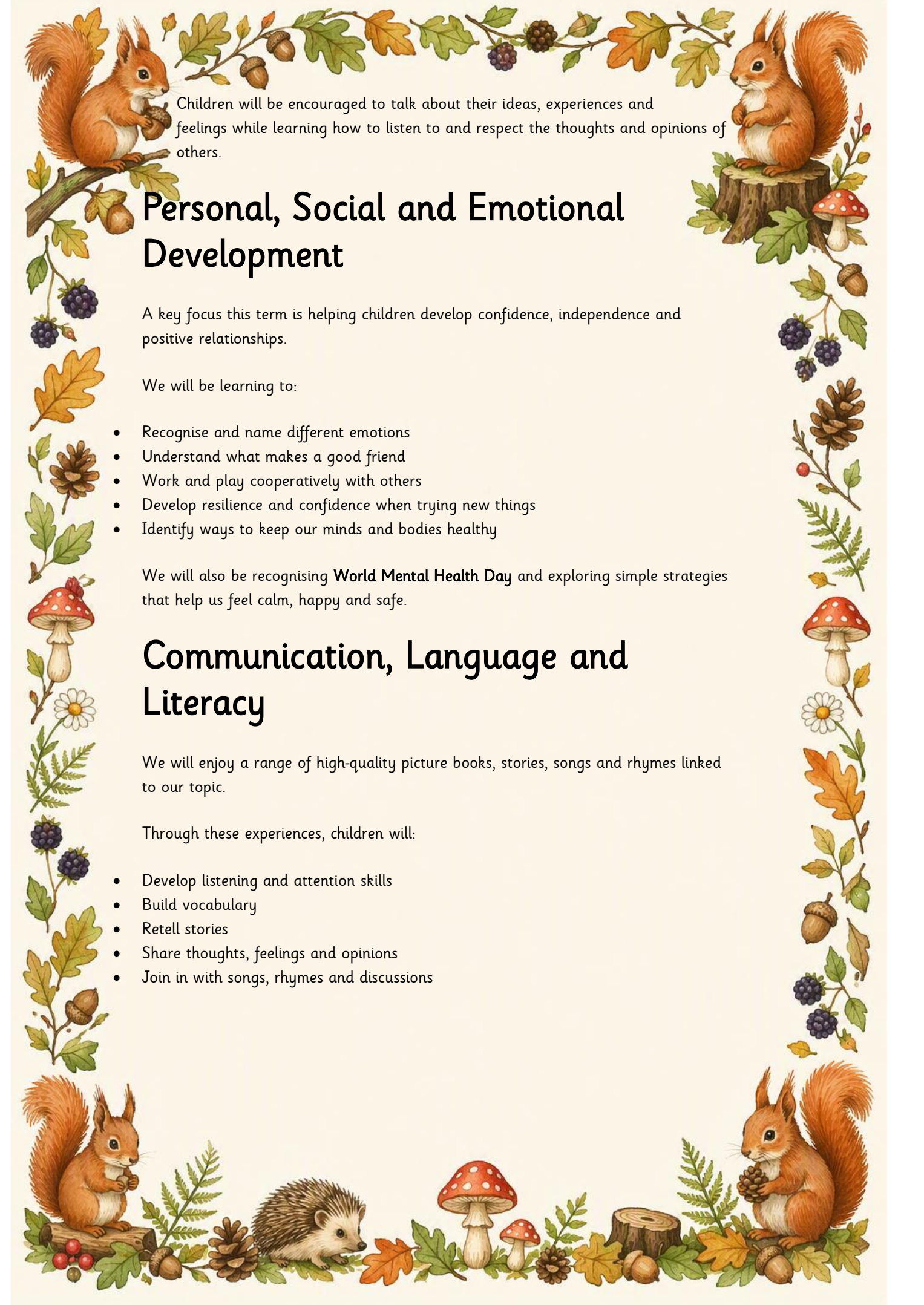
We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year to support your child's learning and development.

This Half Term's Topic

Me and My Community

During our first half term, we will focus on helping children settle into school routines, build friendships and develop a sense of belonging within our classroom and wider school community. Through stories, discussions and play-based learning, we will explore:

- Our feelings and emotions
- New experiences and routines
- What makes us unique and special
- Our families and the people who care for us
 - Friendship and kindness
- Our local community and environment
- Ways to stay healthy and look after our wellbeing



Children will be encouraged to talk about their ideas, experiences and feelings while learning how to listen to and respect the thoughts and opinions of others.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

A key focus this term is helping children develop confidence, independence and positive relationships.

We will be learning to:

- Recognise and name different emotions
- Understand what makes a good friend
- Work and play cooperatively with others
- Develop resilience and confidence when trying new things
- Identify ways to keep our minds and bodies healthy

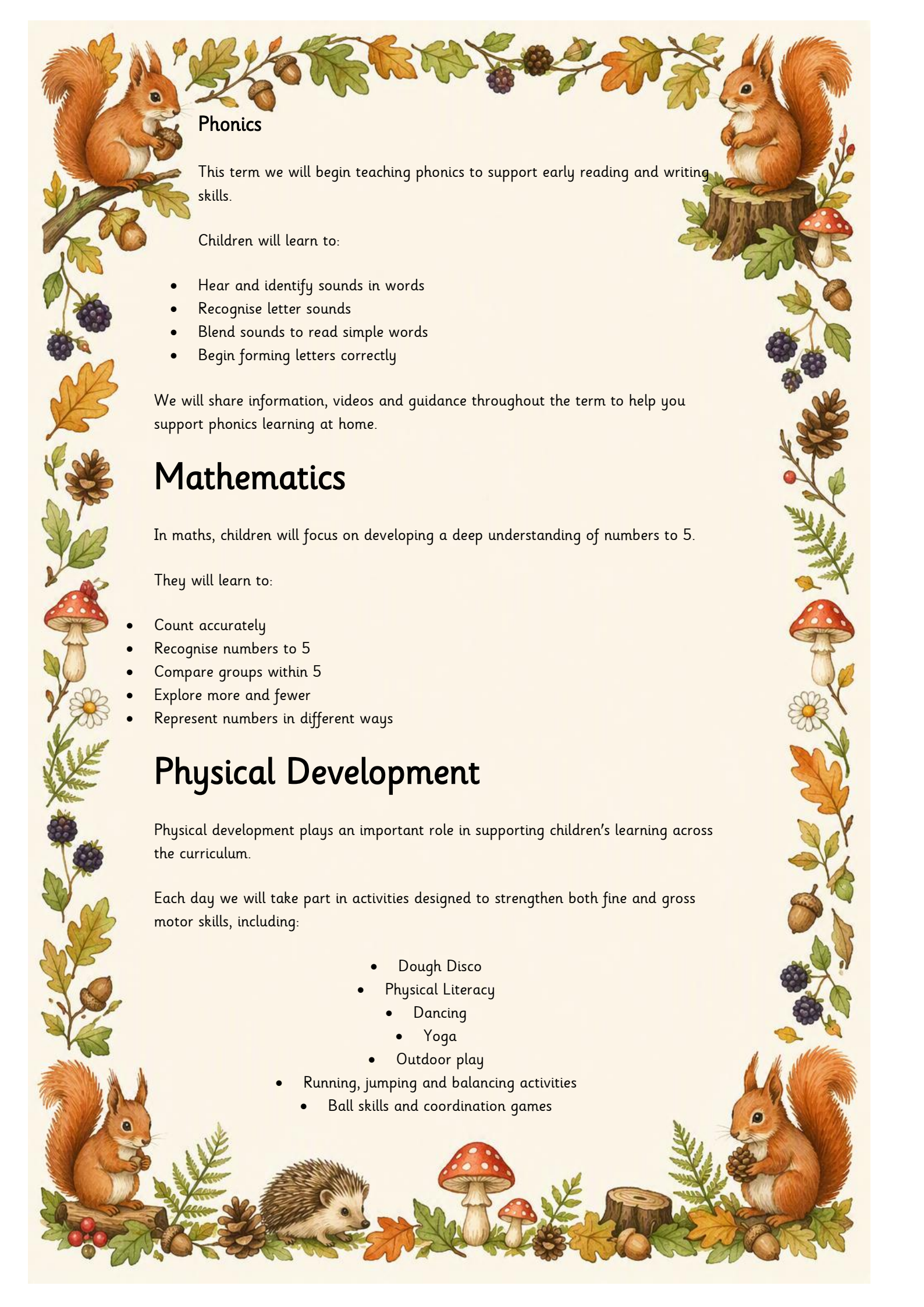
We will also be recognising **World Mental Health Day** and exploring simple strategies that help us feel calm, happy and safe.

Communication, Language and Literacy

We will enjoy a range of high-quality picture books, stories, songs and rhymes linked to our topic.

Through these experiences, children will:

- Develop listening and attention skills
- Build vocabulary
- Retell stories
- Share thoughts, feelings and opinions
- Join in with songs, rhymes and discussions



Phonics

This term we will begin teaching phonics to support early reading and writing skills.

Children will learn to:

- Hear and identify sounds in words
- Recognise letter sounds
- Blend sounds to read simple words
- Begin forming letters correctly

We will share information, videos and guidance throughout the term to help you support phonics learning at home.

Mathematics

In maths, children will focus on developing a deep understanding of numbers to 5.

They will learn to:

- Count accurately
- Recognise numbers to 5
- Compare groups within 5
- Explore more and fewer
- Represent numbers in different ways

Physical Development

Physical development plays an important role in supporting children's learning across the curriculum.

Each day we will take part in activities designed to strengthen both fine and gross motor skills, including:

- Dough Disco
- Physical Literacy
 - Dancing
 - Yoga
- Outdoor play
- Running, jumping and balancing activities
- Ball skills and coordination games



Understanding the World

Throughout the year we celebrate diversity and learn about different cultures, traditions, celebrations and beliefs.

Children will learn to:

- Explore similarities and differences between people
- Respect different families and communities
- Learn about festivals and celebrations
- Understand the world around them and their place within it

Questions to Ask at Home

Talking about learning at home helps children build confidence and language skills.

Try asking:

About Me

- What do you enjoy doing?
- What makes you happy?
- How are you feeling today?
- What are you excited about?

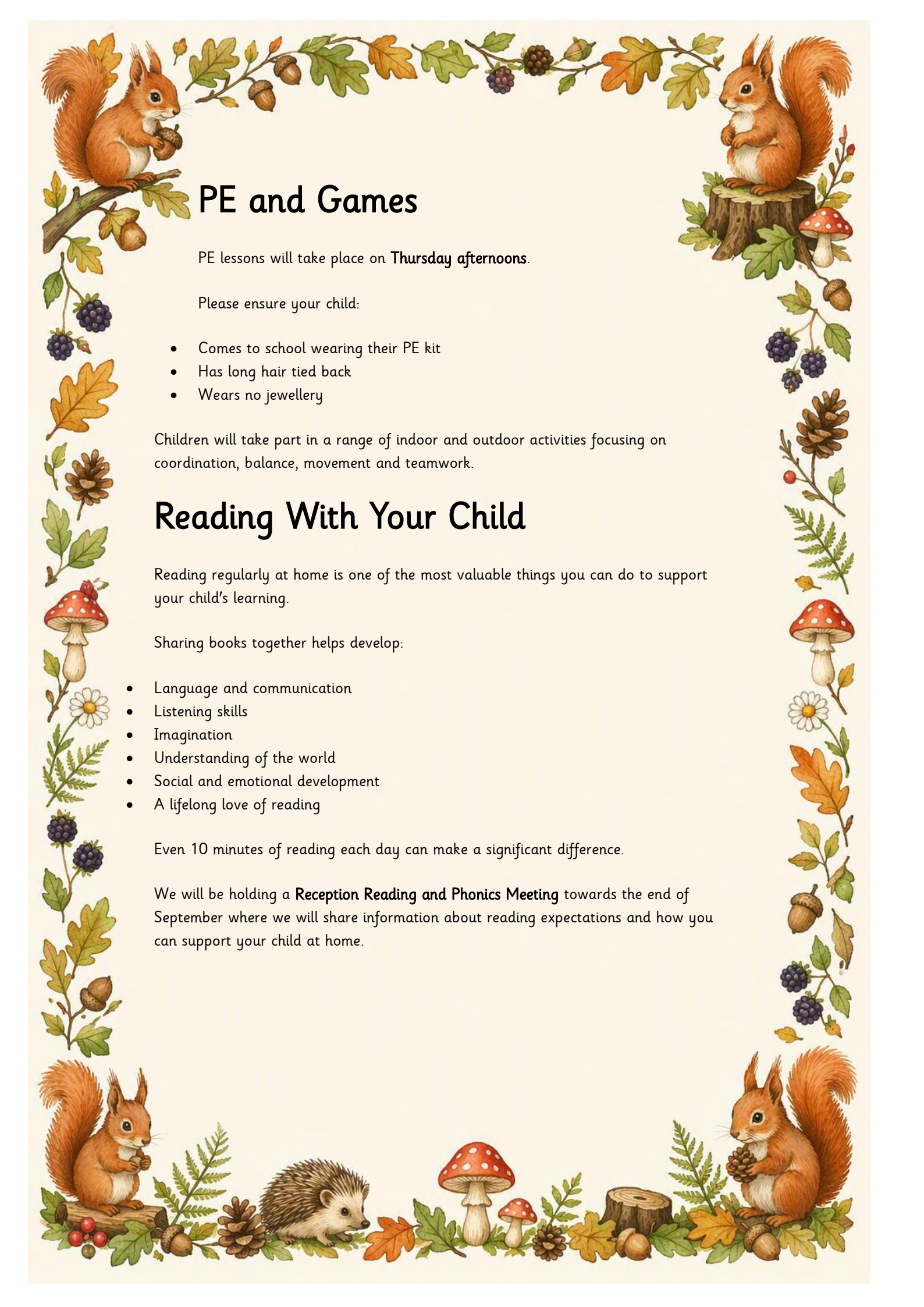
Friends and Feelings

- Who did you play with today?
- How can you be kind to others?
- What makes a good friend?
- Can you show me different facial expressions?

My Community

- What do you see on the way to school?
 - Where do you live?
 - Can you describe your house?
 - What buildings can you see in our community?
 - What places are important in your local area?
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PE and Games

PE lessons will take place on **Thursday afternoons**.

Please ensure your child:

- Comes to school wearing their PE kit
- Has long hair tied back
- Wears no jewellery

Children will take part in a range of indoor and outdoor activities focusing on coordination, balance, movement and teamwork.

Reading With Your Child

Reading regularly at home is one of the most valuable things you can do to support your child's learning.

Sharing books together helps develop:

- Language and communication
- Listening skills
- Imagination
- Understanding of the world
- Social and emotional development
- A lifelong love of reading

Even 10 minutes of reading each day can make a significant difference.

We will be holding a **Reception Reading and Phonics Meeting** towards the end of September where we will share information about reading expectations and how you can support your child at home.



Ways to Help at Home

You can support your child's learning by:

- ☒ Encouraging independence with dressing, feeding and toileting
- ☒ Sharing books and talking about stories together every day
- ☒ Asking about their day and encouraging conversation
- ☒ Enjoying a bedtime story together
- ☒ Providing opportunities to draw, mark-make and write
- ☒ Practising counting objects during everyday activities
- ☒ Recognising and ordering numbers to 5 and then 10
- ☒ Supporting your child to recognise and write their name correctly (a capital letter at the beginning only)
- ☒ Talking about feelings and helping your child to name emotions
- ☒ Encouraging turn-taking and sharing when playing with others

Important Dates

These will be shared on the Class Dojo calendar.

Working Together

We believe that strong partnerships between home and school help children thrive. If you have any questions, concerns or information that may help us support your child, please do not hesitate to speak to us.

We have an open-door policy and are always happy to help.

Information regarding **Class Dojo** and **SCOPAY** will be shared shortly.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Rani, Miss Barks and the Reception Team

